

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 8-20 and ADD new claims 21-22 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A product information brokerage system for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the system comprising:

 a user information storage unit for storing user attribute information and user-owned product information;

 a product information storage unit for storing product information;

 a product information providing unit for providing users with information related to the products owned by the users based on the product information; and

 a user information providing unit for providing user information to manufacturers of the products owned by users via the electronic network based on the user attribute information and user-owned product information.

2. (ORIGINAL) The product information brokerage system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a user information registration unit that requests user attribute information only when necessary.

3. (ORIGINAL) The product information brokerage system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a repair information brokerage unit that provides a manufacturer with a user request for repair of a user-owned product based on the product information storage unit.

4. (ORIGINAL) The product information brokerage system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an advertisement brokerage unit that provides advertisements to users based on the user information storage unit in response to requests from manufacturers to supply such advertisements.

5. (ORIGINAL) The product information brokerage system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

 a parts information storage unit for storing parts information linked to the product information; and

 a parts information selection unit for selecting parts information related to the user-owned products from the parts information stored in the parts information storage unit.

6. (ORIGINAL) The product information brokerage system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a product information selection unit for selecting information about products of a same category as the products owned by the users from the product information stored in the product information storage unit.

7. (ORIGINAL) The product information brokerage system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

 an after-sale service information storage unit for storing after-sale service information; and

 an after-sale service information selection unit for selecting after-sale service information of a plurality of manufacturers related to products of a same category from the after-sale service information storage unit.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The product information brokerage method for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, ~~the method as claimed in claim 12, comprising the steps of:~~

 processing information related to user-owned products; and

 providing user requests for repair of user-owned products to manufacturers based on pre-stored product information provided by the plurality of manufacturers.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The product information brokerage method for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, ~~the method as claimed in claim 12, comprising the step of:~~

 outputting information about parts related to products owned by users via the electronic network based on pre-stored product information of a plurality of manufacturers and based on parts information of a plurality of manufacturers linked to the product information.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The product information brokerage method for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the method as claimed in claim 12, comprising the steps of:

processing information related to user-owned products; and

outputting information about products of a same category as the products owned by users via the electronic network based on pre-stored product information provided by the plurality of manufacturers.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A processor-readable medium storing processing instructions for implementing a product information brokerage program for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the program comprising:

a first program code means for causing a computer to store user attribute information and user-owned product information;

a second program code means for storing product information; and

a third program code means for providing information about users of the manufacturers' products to the manufacturers.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A product information brokerage method for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the method comprising the steps of:

causing a computer to store user attribute information and user-owned product information;

storing product information;

providing users with product information related to products owned by the users; and

providing information about users of the manufacturers' products to the manufacturers.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The computer-implemented method for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the method as claimed in claim 16, comprising the steps of:

processing information related to user-owned products; and

providing user requests for repair of user-owned products to manufacturers based on pre-stored product information provided by the plurality of manufacturers.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The computer-implemented method for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the method as claimed in claim 16, comprising the step of:

outputting information about parts related to products owned by users based on pre-stored product information of a plurality of manufacturers and based on parts information of a plurality of manufacturers linked to the product information.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The computer-implemented method for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the method as claimed in claim 16, comprising the steps of:

processing information related to user-owned products; and

outputting information about products of a same category as the products owned by users based on pre-stored product information provided by the plurality of manufacturers.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-implemented method for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the method comprising the steps of:

causing a computer to store user attribute information and user-owned product information;

storing product information;

providing users with product information related to products owned by the users; and

providing information about users of the manufacturers' products to the manufacturers.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The computer specially configured by the executing program code stored on a computer usable media for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the program code as claimed in claim 20, including:

computer readable program means for processing information related to user-owned products; and

computer readable program means for providing user requests for repair of user-owned products to manufacturers based on pre-stored product information of a plurality of manufacturers.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The computer specially configured by ~~the~~ executing program code ~~as claimed in claim 20~~ stored on a computer usable media for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the program code including a computer readable program for outputting information about parts related to products owned by users based on pre-stored product information of a plurality of manufacturers and on parts information of a plurality of manufacturers linked to the product information.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The computer specially configured by ~~the~~ executing program code ~~stored on a computer usable media for mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the program code as claimed in claim 20~~ including:

~~computer readable program code means for processing information related to user-owned products; and~~

~~computer readable program code means for outputting information about products of a same category as the products owned by users based on pre-stored product information provided by the plurality of manufacturers.~~

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer specially configured by executing program code stored on a computer-usable media for executing a method of mediating between a plurality of users and a plurality of manufacturers via an electronic network, the program code method including:

~~computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store user attribute information and user-owned product information;~~

~~computer readable program code means for storing product information;~~

~~computer readable program code means for providing users with product information related to products owned by the users; and~~

~~computer readable program code means for providing information about users of the manufacturers' products to the manufacturers.~~

21. (NEW) A product information brokerage system for mediating between plural users and plural manufacturers via an electronic network, comprising:

a user information storage unit holding information about user-owned products; and

a processing unit extracting, in response to incoming of log-in information from a user via said electronic network, user-owned product information of said user from said user information storage unit, the processing unit displaying a list of user-owned products of said user via said electronic network based on said extracted user-owned product information in a form of a screen prompting said user to select a processing and a user-owned product to be processed, and

where said processing unit executes processing directed to a manufacturer of said selected user-owned product based on user's selection of said processing and said user-owned product.

22. (NEW) A product information brokerage method for mediating between a user and a manufacturer via an electronic network, comprising

linking user information input while selecting a user-owned product to be processed with stored product information; and

providing the user with product information related to the user-owned product and providing a manufacturer of the user-owned product with user information based on the linkage.